

It's that time of year — the holiday season. Amidst all the decorations, pumpkin spice, and fall colors, right now is also a great time to think about team building. With the new year just around the corner, the holidays provide the perfect opportunity for teams to think back on past year, think ahead on planned projects, and reflect on an individual and collective level. And by holiday team building, we don't mean your usual potluck, a "themed" staff meetings, or bringing in a box of candy canes to bowling night. Team building is not what is used to be, and the holiday season adds a extra element of fun, creativity, and collaboration to the mix.

So, before you begin planning season getaways with family, friends, and loved ones, spend some quality time with your team and check out 10 festive holiday team building activities below.



Dinner Cruise

Why a dinner cruise? The question is - why not? If you really want to get your team out of the office, get them on a boat and on the water! Coupled with good food, drink, and views of the San Francisco Bay, a dinner cruise is one way to get team members together to unwind.

Holiday Gift Scavenger Hunt

Gift giving is just the start this holiday season. Add in a scavenger hunt to get your team to put their heads together to find their gift! The suspense and search will make unwrapping the gift that much more satisfying.



Holiday Game Show

Who doesn't love a good game show? And what office doesn't have a team member or two that has that competitive spirit? A wintertime theme will get your team excited for the season and thinking outside of the box to see who can win the game!

Team Winter Olympics

With a little bit of organizing, an office winter olympics could be the perfect way to round out the year. Once you decide on your activities — from traditional outdoor games to quirky office competitions — round up your office to break into teams and let the games begin!



Holiday Harmonies

Ah, holiday music. It can get you into the spirit like nothing else. So, why not harmonize with your team? You can even consider performing in front of an audience once the group has mastered the songs! What's more, you can keep up this tradition well beyond the holidays. There's no shortage of songs, styles, and genres to choose from.

Bonus: Someone on your team not a singer? Bring your instrument instead!

Give Back With Your Team

The holidays are an opportune time to take a moment and give back to your community. Consider organizing a donation drive with your team — toys, books, clothes, and canned goods being top choices during this time. Or, find a local organization with a cause your team supports. This is a worthwhile and motivating alternative to the traditional office party.

Holiday Murder Mystery

Whodunit? That's what your team will have to figure out by organizing a holiday murder mystery. It's also a fun way to tap into your team members' strengths and find out who plays the detective, suspect, or victim role best. The results may surprise you!



Holiday Cook Off

Have any chefs or bakers in the office? Have team members whip up their best for a friendly holiday cook off. Not only will your team eat great food, but they'll also be able to learn who's who in the kitchen!

Team Ice Skating

What better way to take advantage of the cold weather than by ice skating? It's fun, festive, and gets the team together in a whole new environment — wearing skates to boot!

Ice Sculpting

So you've already done the ice skating deal. Want something different for your team? Try ice sculpting and carve something special with the help of your team. It's a unique activity that's sure to be memorable for everyone.